

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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# Deb EDDY

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48<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

*Dear Neighbors:*

*Thank you for giving me the honor of representing you in Olympia. I am working hard and learning how state policy making differs from local and regional government.*

*We **will** make progress on education, transportation and growth issues this year. You can read about some of the work we're doing inside this newsletter.*

*Better yet, you can come talk to us about what we're doing.*

*On March 17, we will host our next town hall at the **Kirkland Performance Center**. Sen. Rodney Tom, Rep. Ross Hunter and I conduct our town halls together, so that you get the broadest possible access to your legislative delegation.*

*This town hall will focus its first hour on **transportation**. The second hour, we'll break into smaller groups, focused on addressing **your issues** and questions on other topics.*

*As always, do contact me with comments and concerns. I always appreciate hearing you views.*

*Sincerely,*



Deborah H. Eddy



State Representative  
48th District  
**Deborah Eddy**

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**48th  
District  
Town  
Halls**

**March 17 – Transportation**  
**Kirkland Performance Center**  
**10 am**

**April 28 – Session Wrap-up**  
**Chinook Middle School**  
**10 am**



# 2007 MID-SESSION REPORT

## What we're working on ...

### Transportation:



#### ***Roads and transit can't keep up with Eastside's growth***

If you commute in any direction, from any neighborhood in our district, chances are you get home at night with frustrating stop-and-go trips behind you. There is no silver bullet that will fix this problem. Congestion is and will be a fact of life for some time.

#### ***How did we get here?***

- 1) For decades, the state has fallen behind on road and transit projects. Available revenue has contracted, while needs and costs have increased.
- 2) We have multiple agencies dealing with mobility in all its modes - cars, trucks, trains, buses, ferries, bikes and pedestrians!

#### ***What we're doing***

The legislature in past years took two tough gas tax votes, improving the revenue picture. We will make those dollars go farther, by the time we're through with the transportation budget this year. I'm on the committee and am having a good time, scrubbing the budget and restoring projects.

Also, I'm co-sponsoring a bill that will provide an implementation of the Puget Sound Regional Transportation Commission report, calling for a consolidation of agencies. My bill does not immediately implement the report, which has surprised some. This is because merging agencies can cause more problems than it fixes, if done too fast and without careful coordination. I think we need to write more specific implementing legislation, including clearer performance expectations, for adoption next year.

### Roadways: improving mobility, making them safer

Due to the transportation packages passed in 2003 and 2005, work is already underway on several area roadways. While there isn't room to always build out, we can make highways like I-405 flow better.



Here are some of the projects that will help, locally:

I-405 – Lane additions and off-ramp/intersection improvements from Bellevue to Kirkland

I-90 – Increasing HOV lanes to Seattle, Eastgate Park and Ride access ramp, and study of Bellevue to North Bend traffic

SR520 – Widening from Lake Sammamish Parkway to Highway 202 in Redmond

### Transit: Getting cars off the road with viable options

As gas prices continue to rise, transit has become an attractive option to save money—and most importantly—time. We are decades behind in transit too, playing catch-up to create an integrated system of bus and light-rail services.

With express routes and increased local service, King County METRO and Sound Transit give us options that other regions do not have. State-wide, we need to do better planning, better integration and, frankly, more creative thinking in how we improve our ability to *move*.

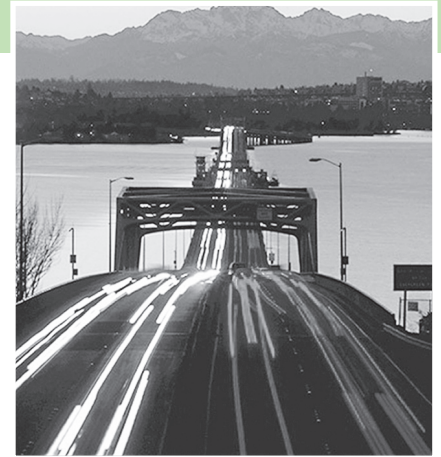


## progress for the Eastside

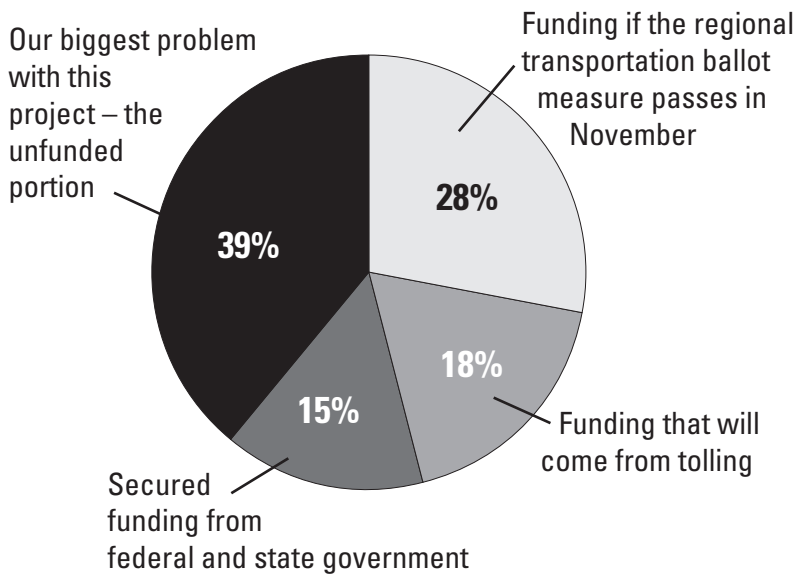
### The SR-520 bridge

My first priority in transportation is to secure funding for the SR-520 bridge corridor from I-5 to I-405. The funds aren't there, yet there is a sense of urgency to get started. Simulation shows that a severe windstorm or earthquake can cause irreversible damage, if not total failure and destruction. Replacing the bridge and improving the corridor is at least a \$3.9 billion project.

I'm working with my colleague Rep. Judy Clibborn, chair of the Transportation Committee, to identify funding and speed up this process. Waiting will only add to a price tag we already are struggling to afford.



### SR-520's Funding Problem



**Rep. Deb Eddy on the House floor after being sworn into the Legislature**

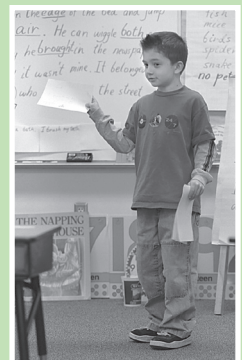
### Education: do more, do it now – and do it again

#### ✓ Investing dollars to get all students diplomas – funding basic education

Later in the session, we'll pass the budget and know where we've ended up. At present, we plan on substantially increasing the state's contributions per student. The debate centers on where to invest that spending – lower class sizes, teacher compensation? And, yes, I know that whatever we do this biennium, it will not be enough.

#### ✓ Confronting our math and science problem

The WASL results starkly illustrate our failure to provide an appropriate math education for our kids. For many families, we've thought we were the only ones whose kids were struggling. No! We must improve our methods and curriculum. Legislation I'm cosponsoring would get extra help to students who are struggling and narrow the curricular options, among other initiatives. (HB 1906)







## Managing our growing communities

### ✓ *Homes in the community where you work*

I am not going to suggest that growth planning is easy, or that any state law is going to ensure that new jobs and housing are always precisely where we want or need them. But we can do better! As vice-chair of Local Government, I'm working on several bills that will help us target our efforts to get family housing where we need it. (HB 1726 & 1727)

### ✓ *Keeping property taxes in check*

I'm cosponsoring legislation to restore the 1 percent property tax limit enacted under Initiative 747. A King County superior court decision found the initiative unconstitutional. The case continues to work its way through the courts, but the Legislature should act now to reinstate this limit, cutting off uncertainty. (HB 2117)

## Being prepared for emergencies

### ✓ *Better communications among emergency services*

This isn't a new lesson, but we need to continue to improve communication between public safety and government agencies. I'm requesting funding to assist eastside cities in creating the Northeast King County Regional Public Safety Communications Initiative (NORCOM). This agency will help create efficiency and interoperability among all our emergency services.



### ✓ *Keeping gas stations open, cars moving*

When the power went out and people couldn't find gas stations, a real panic set in. You could just drive around and hope that you found a gas station with power, somewhere along your route. That doesn't make sense, so I'm co-sponsoring the Consumer Emergency Fuel Station Act (HB 2053) that will require stations to provide emergency back-up power, so that they can stay open when the power goes out.